

Lorraine Simpson Oral History Transcript

You're Lorraine Simpson, are you?

Yes I am.

Lorraine, I'm John Seacombe for the Wakefield Oral History Project. Kirkgate Calling Project. Would you like to start by telling me something about your early life?

Well I was born in Kettlethorpe, born in Kettlethorpe, and I lived in Walton until I was about two years old and then we moved to Standbridge Lane in Sandal where I lived until I was about nine and then we moved out to Ackworth near Pontefract and I lived in Wakefield during my early married life and then we moved to Le

My father was a heating engineer and my mother, I won't say she didn't work because she worked very hard in the home but she didn't go out to work, she was a housewife and, um, from that point of view it was a very traditional um, family home, I suppose, you know. My mum was there all the time when we got in from school, my dad worked five days a week and sometimes on a Saturday mornings and then we had family time at the weekends and I have very happy memories of my childhood, you know, growing up.

Could you tell me something about your holidays, did you go for days out anywhere or holidays abroad?

As I was growing up, no we didn't go abroad. But as I was growing up we had holidays in Cornwall for quite a few years running down in Newquay, again happy memories of that. We used to stay in a hotel and I can remember my parents getting us into bed and then going down to have a dinner and dance and everything, it sounds very glamorous. So we had a couple of holidays there and then we had a few holidays in Sandsend near Whitby and again, today we wouldn't think twice of going there for a day trip but we had to break the journey, I think at a place called Stamford? Or Stamford Bridge. And there used to be a nice café there and we always used to have fish and chips on the way to wherever we were going on holiday. So regular holidays in this country really.

What's the longest trip you've ever gone on?

I think it's to Hong Kong. A few years ago my daughter was travelling and we flew to Hong Kong to meet her because she'd already been away for three months and we knew she'd be away for a further four months and it was an opportunity to touch base with her while she was doing her travelling so we flew to Hong Kong for five days which was a long way to go for five days for just five days but it was worth it. And that was just amazing because it was just such a different, completely different place to anywhere I'd ever been.

Let's get onto the world of work. Where was your first job?

My first job, I was actually working for my father because him and my grandfather were in business together. They had a heating and ventilating business and I started work, office work, for them, so I had a few years there, then I moved onto Community Health, part of the National Health Service in Wakefield up on St Johns and I worked there for a few years and then I stopped to have my children and then I went to university as a mature student and I did a Bachelor of Education and got my teaching qualification and my teaching degree and I've been teaching ever since!

Good for you. Do you think that's been your favourite job?

Yes, there are some aspects that I really do like. There are some aspects that I don't but for the most part, yes I do enjoy it.

(unintell) And looking back on your ? life, what did you want to be when you grew up?

I think I want, I quite liked the idea of being a teacher, I think. Specifically because of this person, Mollie Malcolm, who was, I think she was amazing, and the more I think about her looking back; she was the proprietor of this school, this preparatory school that I went to. Um, I think it was because of her and my happy experience at school that I wanted to become a teacher.

Now we're obviously doing this around Kirkgate Station, do you have any special memories of Kirkgate Station from years gone by before it became what it has been over the last 20 years?

Not personally, but when we were first married we lived on Denby Dale Road and my husband worked in Darton, near Barnsley, so he always used to walk to Kirkgate Station and get the train from Darton to there and then back. I can't specifically remember going anywhere on the train from Kirkgate. I can remember my dad, this might sound as if I'm going off on a tangent, but I remember he had a little painted cart in the garden to have plants, planted fuschias on, and I can remember him telling me, and I don't know how he acquired it, whether they were about to throw it away or whatever, but he told me that that came from Kirkgate Station and it was a handcart, two wheels and two things to carry it with and he said when he first acquired it, it was black and it had a Star of David on the side which quite intrigues me, I don't now why it would have a Star of David on there but yes, that disappeared when it got painted red and yellow and green. Unfortunately. But not many memories of Kirkgate Station specifically.